ETHIOPIA

WHAT HAPPENED IN APRIL?
The fragile truce announced in March between the federal government and Tigray forces held, but humanitarian aid flowing into the embattled region remained grossly insufficient. Elsewhere, violence continued and religious tensions flared in Amhara and the Southern Nations regions.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?
The pause in large-scale fighting between the federal coalition and Tigray’s forces has generated cautious optimism. However, if the warring sides fail to build on this momentum, it raises the possibility that full-scale hostilities resume, particularly in Western Tigray.

MARCH TRENDS
The federal government declared an “indefinite humanitarian truce” to allow aid into the Tigray region. Meanwhile, violence remained rampant in several other regions, including Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz.

WHAT TO WATCH
If aid deliveries increase, federal and Tigray authorities could begin ceasefire negotiations. While overall positive, this could cause the rift between Addis Ababa and Amhara and Eritrea to widen.

If deliveries remain piecemeal, Tigray may seek to reclaim Amhara-occupied Western Tigray and break the blockade by accessing a supply line via Sudan.

Growing violence in the Oromia conflict could boost support for the OLA, worsen Amhara-Oromo communal clashes and cause splits within Oromia’s ruling elite.

TRENDS TIMELINE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>JUN</td>
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<td><img src="image1" alt="Expansion of Tigray conflict" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Tigray conflict, risk of escalation" /></td>
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